

1 **Title:** Can hydraulic design explain patterns of leaf water isotopic enrichment in C<sub>3</sub> plants?

2 **Running Head:** Leaf hydraulic design and water isotopes

3

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18

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O enrichment develops when leaves transpire, but an accurate generalised mechanistic  
21 model has proven elusive. We hypothesised that leaf hydraulic architecture may affect the  
22 degree to which gradients in H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O develop within leaves, influencing bulk leaf stable oxygen  
23 isotope enrichment ( $\Delta_L$ ) and the degree to which the Péclet effect is relevant in leaves. Leaf  
24 hydraulic design predicted the relevance of a Péclet effect to  $\Delta_L$  in 19 of the 21 species tested.  
25 Leaves with well-developed hydraulic connections between the vascular tissue and the epidermal  
26 cells through bundle sheath extensions and clear distinctions between palisade and spongy  
27 mesophyll layers (while the mesophyll is hydraulically disconnected) may have velocities of the  
28 transpiration stream such that gradients in H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O develop and are expressed in the mesophyll. In  
29 contrast, in leaves where the vascular tissue is hydraulically disconnected from the epidermal  
30 layers, or where all mesophyll cells are well connected to the transpiration stream, velocities  
31 within the liquid transport pathways may be low enough that gradients in H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O are very small.  
32 Prior knowledge of leaf hydraulic design allows informed selection of the appropriate  $\Delta_L$   
33 modelling framework.

34

35 **Keywords:** oxygen isotope; leaf water; transpiration; Péclet effect; two-pool model

36

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45

46 **Summary sentence:** We show that leaf hydraulic design contributes to the development of  
47 gradients in oxygen isotope composition within leaf water, and that *a priori* knowledge of leaf  
48 hydraulic design can guide selection of appropriate leaf water isotope models.

49

50 **Author contributions:** M.M.B. and K.E.L co-designed the experiment; M.M.B., K.E.L., E.L.L.,  
51 A.S., and D.M. conducted the experiment. M.M.B. and K.E.L. drafted the manuscript and all  
52 authors contributed to interpretation of data, writing and editing of the manuscript.

53

## 54 **INTRODUCTION**

55 The stable oxygen isotope composition of leaf water is at the crossroads of a number of  
56 important aspects of global cycles of carbon and water: leaf water influences the oxygen isotope  
57 composition of both O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, and so is used to determine terrestrial versus oceanic  
58 productivity (the “Dole effect”: Dole et al. 1954; Bender, Sowers and Labeyrie, 1994) and to  
59 constrain global carbon models (e.g. Ciais et al. 1997; Welp et al. 2011). Further, leaf water

60 imparts an isotopic signal on plant organic material that has been exploited to reconstruct past  
61 climates from tree rings (Libby et al. 1979), to interpret plant regulation of water loss (Barbour  
62 2007) and to predict assimilation-weighted leaf temperature (Helliker and Richter 2008). Given  
63 this range in applications there is an urgent need to understand the factors controlling measured  
64 variation in leaf water oxygen isotope composition ( $\Delta_L$ ) and to build mechanistic models for the  
65 prediction of  $\Delta_L$  in time and space. The contradictory evidence in the literature regarding the  
66 accuracy of various modelling approaches is impeding progress (Cernusak et al. 2016).

67 The most widely applied model for characterising the enrichment of  $H_2^{18}O$  at the sites of  
68 evaporation relative to source water ( $\Delta_e$ ), the Craig-Gordon model (Craig and Gordon 1965), was  
69 developed for evaporation from open bodies of water and subsequently adapted to plants  
70 (Dongmann et al. 1974; Flanagan, Comstock and Ehleringer 1991). However, it was  
71 demonstrated thereafter that this model tends to over-estimate  $\Delta_e$  compared to measured bulk  
72 leaf water (Flanagan, Comstock and Ehleringer 1991). One option to account for the discrepancy  
73 between  $\Delta_e$  and  $\Delta_L$  is with a discrete-pool model, which considers bulk leaf water as a mixture of  
74 pools of water (Leaney et al. 1985; Yakir, DeNiro and Rundel, 1989). The simplest form of this  
75 model is the two-pool model, where bulk leaf water is separated into two isotopically distinct  
76 pools, one in the lamina and the second in the veins. However, some measurements suggested  
77 that the difference between  $\Delta_e$  and  $\Delta_L$  scaled with transpiration rate (Walker et al. 1989), a trend  
78 the two-pool model does not predict (Barbour et al. 2000). An alternative leaf water model was  
79 proposed, which describes the formation of isotopic gradients within leaves as a Péclet effect that  
80 occurs as the backward diffusion of heavy water isotopologues (i.e.  $H_2^{18}O$ ) is opposed by bulk  
81 water flow to the sites of evaporation (Farquhar and Lloyd 1993). Implicit within Péclet effect  
82 theory is a positive relationship between transpiration rate and the fractional difference between

83  $\Delta_e$  and  $\Delta_L$  under steady state conditions ( $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ ; Farquhar and Lloyd 1993). The two different  
84 modelling approaches require either extensive data collection to assess different models or an *a*  
85 *priori* knowledge of the most appropriate model.

86 We propose that leaf hydraulic architecture can be used to inform the choice of stable isotope  
87 models of bulk leaf water. The relative contribution of apoplastic, symplastic and transcellular  
88 pathways (Steudle, Murrmann and Peterson, 1993; Aasamaa, Niinemets and Sober, 2005) to the  
89 transpiration flux and how they interact is predicted to influence the development of gradients in  
90 enrichment within leaves, and hence the isotope composition of bulk leaf water (Barbour and  
91 Farquhar 2003). Measurements of whole leaf rehydration kinetics provide evidence of hydraulic  
92 compartmentalisation, with leaves falling into three different *hydraulic designs* (Zwieniecki,  
93 Brodribb and Holbrook, 2007):

94 Design 1: relatively weak hydraulic connections (i.e. high resistance) between veins, mesophyll  
95 and epidermal cells

96 Design 2: veins and epidermal cells are well connected hydraulically but the contribution of  
97 mesophyll cells to transpiration is relatively restricted due to high hydraulic resistance

98 Design 3: all tissues are hydraulically well connected.

99 The aim of the following study was to examine how hydraulic design may be used to explain  
100 patterns of leaf water enrichment at the whole leaf level. We examined 21 C<sub>3</sub> species, which  
101 were allocated to one of the three hydraulic designs using leaf anatomical properties visible  
102 under a light microscope. The relationship between transpiration rate and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  was quantified  
103 to test whether hydraulic design can be used to inform the choice of isotopic model.

104

## 105 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 106 Growth Conditions

107 *Eucalyptus amplifolia* Naud., *Eucalyptus botryoides* Smith, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh.,  
108 *Eucalyptus globulus* Labill., *Eucalyptus grandis* W. Hill ex Maiden, *Eucalyptus occidentalis*  
109 Endl., *Eucalyptus polybractea* R.T. Baker, *Eucalyptus stellulata* Sieber ex DC., *Acer x freemanii*  
110 A.E Murray Autumn Blaze (Jeffersred), *Camellia sasanqua* Thunb. cv Paradise Belinda, *Ginkgo*  
111 *biloba* L., *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Sultana M12 and *Wollemia nobilis* W.G. Jones, K.D. Hill & J.M.  
112 Allen. were purchased locally as seedlings. All seedlings except for *C. sasanqua* were placed  
113 into larger pots filled with locally purchased soil mix and amended with slow release fertiliser  
114 (Osmocote, Scotts Australia Pty Ltd., Sydney, NSW, Australia). *Eucalyptus parramattensis* Hall,  
115 *Helianthus annuus* L., *Phaseolus vulgaris* L., *Glycine max* L. Merr, *Gossypium hirsutum* L.,  
116 *Triticum aestivum* L. cv Cranbrook and *Cicer arietinum* L. (cvs Amethyst, Hatrick and Kyabra)  
117 were grown from seed in potting mix amended with slow release fertiliser (Osmocote, Scotts  
118 Australia Pty Ltd., Sydney, NSW, Australia).

119 *P. vulgaris*, *G. max*, *T. aestivum* and *C. arietinum* were grown in a controlled environment room  
120 at the Centre for Carbon, Water and Food (University of Sydney, Camden NSW, Australia) at a  
121 day/night temperature of 25/17°C, 14 h day period, day and night air humidity of 75% and an  
122 approximate irradiance at the top of the canopy of 600  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . *G. hirsutum* and *H. annuus*  
123 (NSS sample batch) were grown in a controlled environment room with a day/night temperature  
124 of 28/20°C, 75% air humidity in the day and night, 14 h day period and an approximate  
125 irradiance at the top of the canopy of 600  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . *H. annuus* (SS sample batch) and *C.*

126 *sasanqua* were grown in a controlled environment room with a day/night temperature of  
127 25/20°C, day and night air humidity of 70%, 16 h light period and an approximate irradiance  
128 intensity of 700  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  at the top of the canopy. The *Eucalyptus* species, *Acer x freemanii*  
129 and *W. nobilis* (after an initial period of growth in the controlled environment room with the  
130 above conditions) were placed into a glasshouse in ambient conditions at the Centre for Carbon,  
131 Water and Food. All species were watered daily to maintain soil water at field capacity. Gas  
132 exchange measurements were made when the *Eucalyptus*, *Acer x freemanii*, *W. nobilis* and *C.*  
133 *sasanqua* seedlings were 6 months-4 years old and 4-8 weeks after germination for the rest of the  
134 species.

135 Five genotypes of *Vicia faba* L. (PBA Rana, Cairo, PBA Warda, Doza and 220d) were grown  
136 from seed under four different CO<sub>2</sub> and irradiance environmental conditions inside two growth  
137 environment rooms. The rooms were set to a day/night temperature of 25/17°C, 75% air  
138 humidity and a CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure of either 60.4 or 100.7 Pa. Differences in irradiance were  
139 imposed by covering half of the plants with shade cloth, which reduced irradiance from 600 to  
140 200  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . Plants were watered daily and measured when they were approximately 6  
141 weeks old.

142

#### 143 Gas exchange and isotope measurements

144 Gas exchange was recorded at one minute intervals on a LiCor portable photosynthesis system  
145 (Li6400xt, LiCor Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) fitted with either a custom-built large leaf chamber  
146 (leaf area of 38 cm<sup>2</sup>; Loucos et al. 2015), 2 x 6 cm chamber (Li6400-11; LiCor Inc.) or standard  
147 2 x 3 cm chamber with a red-blue LED irradiance source (Li6400-02B; LiCor Inc.). For the two

148 larger chambers a red-green-blue irradiance source was used (Li6400-18A; LiCor Inc.), which  
149 had a maximum red-blue irradiance intensity of  $1300 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ .

150 Transpiration rates were varied by manipulating irradiance,  $\text{CO}_2$  partial pressure, leaf  
151 temperature and intercellular-to-atmospheric vapour pressure difference (VPd). Leaf temperature  
152 varied between  $21.5$  and  $30.7^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$  partial pressure between  $5.0$  and  $120.8 \text{ Pa}$  (given an  
153 atmospheric pressure of  $100.7 \text{ kPa}$ ) and irradiance was varied from  $50$  to  $1300 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . VPd  
154 was manipulated by altering flow rate, which was varied between  $250$  and  $710 \mu\text{mol s}^{-1}$ . For the  
155 leaves of *V. faba* genotypes only, environmental conditions inside the LiCor chamber were  
156 matched to the growth environmental conditions (see above) with a range of VPd between  $0.9$   
157 and  $4.1 \text{ kPa}$ .

158 A subset of *H. annuus*, *E. grandis* and *E. parramattensis* leaves were measured under contrasting  
159 irradiance of  $200$  and  $1200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  in order to test whether irradiance influences the  
160 location of the sites of evaporation (as suggested by Buckley et al. 2017), and consequently the  
161 Péclet effective length. For these measurements, transpiration rate was varied through changes  
162 in  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration and flow rate.

163 Transpiration isotopologues were measured by attaching the LiCor system to a Picarro (L1102-i;  
164 Picarro Inc., Sunnyvale, CA, USA) or Los Gatos Research water vapour gas analyser (TIWA-  
165 45EP; Los Gatos Inc., Mount View, CA, USA) with the air entering the LiCor chamber  
166 completely dried. Drying the ingoing air meant the water vapour concentration exiting the  
167 chamber was entirely derived from leaf transpiration. The gas analysers recorded the oxygen  
168 isotope ratio every  $1-5 \text{ s}$  (later converted to minute averages). The youngest, fully expanded  
169 leaves were selected and either part or the whole leaf was enclosed in the chamber. Leaves



170 remained in the chamber until transpiration rates had stabilised but isotopes were still at non-  
171 steady state (10 – 60 min; NSS) or the oxygen isotope composition had stabilised and isotopic  
172 steady state was assumed (between 40 min and 7 h 20 min; SS), depending on the species.

173 Once the gas exchange measurements were completed leaves were collected for water extraction  
174 or equilibration in three different ways (see Supp. Table 3). For the whole leaf samples of the  
175 *Eucalyptus* species, *Acer x freemaniai*, *G. biloba*, *V. faba* genotypes, *V. vinifera*, *C. arietinum*  
176 genotypes and part leaf samples of *H. annuus* (SS batch, only the leaf area within the chamber),  
177 leaves were cut at the end of gas exchange and isotope measurements, photographed for  
178 calculation of one-sided leaf area using ImageJ (1.45s, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA) and the leaves  
179 (without the petiole) were sealed in glass vials and stored at -20°C for extraction via vacuum  
180 distillation. *C. sasanqua* and *W. nobilis* samples were also prepared as described above except  
181 that for these samples, the primary vein and lamina tissue was placed into separate glass vials.  
182 For a second set of samples from the *Eucalyptus* species and *Acer x freemaniai*, whole leaves  
183 were cut at the petiole and then the primary vein and lamina tissue were separated and sealed  
184 into separate glass vials flushed with 2% CO<sub>2</sub> for direct equilibration. For the remaining species,  
185 the section of the leaf inside the chamber was cut away and sealed in a glass vial flushed with  
186 2% CO<sub>2</sub> for direct equilibration. An individual sampling method typically took less than two  
187 minutes to complete.

188 The Picarro and LGR analysers were calibrated following the protocol described by Simonin et  
189 al. (2013) every 2-7 days during experimentation. A multiple linear regression was performed for  
190 each calibration, which included a correction of the raw isotope data for any concentration  
191 dependence.

192

193 Leaf water extraction and oxygen isotope analysis

194 For leaf samples stored at -20°C, leaf water was extracted via the vacuum distillation method  
195 (West, Patrickson and Ehleringer, 200). Extracted leaf water was then equilibrated with CO<sub>2</sub>  
196 using the method described by Loucos et al. (2015), while directly-equilibrated leaf samples  
197 followed the method described by Song and Barbour (2016) for measurement of leaf water <sup>18</sup>O.  
198 All samples were then measured on a tunable-diode laser absorption spectrometer (model  
199 TGA100A, Campbell Scientific, Inc., Logan, UT, USA). Values from equilibrated samples were  
200 corrected using the general equation for the difference between extracted and directly  
201 equilibrated water samples (Song and Barbour 2016).

202

203 The Péclet Effect Model

204 Isotopic enrichment above source water ( $\Delta$ ) was expressed in per mil (‰) as:

205 
$$\Delta = \frac{meas}{R_s} - 1, (1)$$

206 where  $R_{meas}$  is the measured isotopic ratio (<sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O) of either the atmospheric water vapour,  
207 evaporative site water or leaf water, and  $R_s$  is the isotopic ratio of the source water (the isotopic  
208 composition of transpired vapour was used; Song et al. 2015). Thus calculation of  $\Delta$  was  
209 expressed as ( $\delta_{meas}$  is the measured or estimated isotopic composition):

210 
$$\Delta = \frac{(\delta_{meas} - \delta_{trans})}{(1 + \delta_{trans})}. \quad (2)$$

211 The steady-state model of isotopic enrichment at the sites of evaporation ( $\Delta_e$ ) is based on the  
 212 Craig-Gordon model for evaporation from the surface of water bodies (Craig and Gordon 1965),  
 213 adapted to plants (Dongmann et al. 1974) and modified for boundary layer effects (Farquhar et  
 214 al. 1989);

$$215 \quad \Delta_e = \varepsilon^+ + \varepsilon_k + (\Delta_v - \varepsilon_k) e_a/e_i, \quad (3)$$

216 where  $\Delta_v$  is the isotopic enrichment of the water vapour in the leaf chamber,  $\varepsilon^+$  and  $\varepsilon_k$  the  
 217 equilibrium and kinetic fractionation factors and  $e_a/e_i$  is the ambient to intercellular mole fraction  
 218 of water vapour. The equilibrium fractionation factor,  $\varepsilon^+$ , represents the temperature dependent  
 219 isotopic effect of a change in phase from liquid to vapour on  $\Delta_e$  as follows, where  $T_l$  is leaf  
 220 temperature in Kelvin (Bottinga and Craig 1969):

$$221 \quad \varepsilon^+(\text{‰}) = 2.644 - 3.206 \left( \frac{10^3}{T_l} \right) + 1.534 \left( \frac{10^6}{T_l^2} \right), \quad (4)$$

222  $\varepsilon_k$  represents the isotopic effect of diffusion on  $H_2^{18}O$  through the stomatal ( $g_s$ ) and boundary ( $g_b$ )  
 223 layers (Eqn. 5; Farquhar et al. 1989) incorporating the discrimination values determined by  
 224 Merlivat (1978):

$$225 \quad \varepsilon_k = \frac{28g_s^{-1} + 18.7g_b^{-1}}{g_s^{-1} + g_b^{-1}}. \quad (5)$$

226 The steady-state formulation (Eqn. 3, but expressed relative to the Vienna Standard Mean Ocean  
 227 Water standard VSMOW) can be adapted for both steady-state and non-steady-state conditions  
 228 following Harwood et al. (1998):

$$229 \quad \delta_e = \delta_{trans} + \varepsilon^+ + \varepsilon_k + ((\delta_v - \varepsilon_k - \delta_{trans}) \times e_a/e_i). \quad (6)$$

230 In Eqn. 6,  $\delta_{\text{trans}}$  is the isotopic composition of transpired water and  $\delta_v$  is the vapour in the leaf  
231 chamber, both relative to VSMOW. In this study, the incoming air was dry, so  $\delta_v$  is entirely  
232 derived from  $\delta_{\text{trans}}$ .

233 The Craig-Gordon model was modified (Farquhar and Lloyd 1993) to account for the observed  
234 discrepancy between measured leaf water enrichment ( $\Delta_L$ ) and modelled  $\Delta_e$ :

$$235 \quad \Delta_L = \frac{\Delta_e(1 - e^{-\wp})}{\wp}, \quad (7)$$

236 where  $\wp$  is the Péclet number and describes the enrichment of water flowing towards the sites of  
237 evaporation from the backwards diffusion of  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$ :

$$238 \quad \wp = \frac{EL}{CD}, \quad (8)$$

239 where  $E$  is transpiration rate ( $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $L$  is the effective path length (m),  $C$  is the molar  
240 density of water ( $\text{mol m}^{-3}$ ) and  $D$  ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the diffusivity of  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  in water, which varies with  
241 leaf temperature (Cuntz et al. 2007):

$$242 \quad D = 97 \times 10^{-9} \times \exp\left(\frac{-577}{(T_l + 273.16) - 145}\right). \quad (9)$$

243 The Péclet effect predicts a positive relationship between  $E$  and  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$ . For each replicate,  $L$   
244 was fitted by minimising the difference between the measured  $\Delta_L$  and modelled  $\Delta_{LS}$  using Eqn. 7.  
245 For comparison with the two-pool model, these individual values were averaged and the mean  
246 value then used to estimate bulk leaf water.

247

248 The Two-pool model

249 The simplest form of the discrete-pool model, the two-pool model assumes that bulk leaf water is  
250 the combination of two pools of water, one in the veins that is not subjected to evaporative  
251 enrichment and is therefore isotopically similar to source water and one in the lamina tissue that  
252 is influenced by evaporative enrichment (Leaney et al. 1985). The predicted oxygen isotope  
253 composition of leaf water assuming two pools ( $\Delta_{L,t}$ ) is described as:

$$254 \quad \Delta_{L,t} = (1 - \phi)\Delta_e, \quad (12)$$

255 where  $\phi$  is the fraction of unenriched water in the veins.  $\phi$  was assumed to be equal to  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$   
256 (Song et al. 2015), but note that we use  $\phi$  when discussing the two pool model in order to avoid  
257 potential confusion. For comparison with the Péclet effect model, the two-pool model was run  
258 using the average value of  $\phi$  for each species.

259

## 260 Statistical Analysis

261 Data was graphed using Origin (Version 6.1; OriginLab Corp, Northampton, Massachusetts,  
262 USA). Significant linear relationships were defined by a  $p$ -value of less than 0.05. A two-sample  
263  $t$ -test was performed in Genstat (Version 16, VSN International Ltd, [www.vsni.co.uk](http://www.vsni.co.uk)) to assess  
264 the difference between isotopic steady state and non-steady-state estimates of  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$   
265 calculated for *H. annuus*. Predictions from the two-pool and Péclet effect models were plotted  
266 against measured bulk leaf water and the linear relationship was analysed using a Student's  $t$ -  
267 test. The null hypothesis was that the slope and intercept did not differ from a 1:1 line (i.e. the  
268 slope was not different from 1, and the intercept not different from zero) as described in Bailey  
269 (1981), where  $t = (1 - \text{slope}[\text{or intercept}]) / \text{standard error of the slope}[\text{or intercept}]$ .

270

## 271 RESULTS

272 For the 21 species measured in this study, leaf anatomical properties were assessed visually  
273 using either light microscopy or published cross-sections, to place each species into one of the  
274 three hydraulic designs suggested by Zwieniecki et al. (2007). The results are presented in Table  
275 1, with the average values for the Craig-Gordon estimate, the bulk leaf water and effective path  
276 length shown in Supp. Table 1. In addition, we have included another 11 species from previously  
277 published studies for which the relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  could be determined and for  
278 which the anatomical properties were available in the literature. Of our 21 species, six were  
279 determined to be closest anatomically to Design 1 (usually no bundle sheath extension and  
280 unstructured mesophyll), eight were assigned to Design 2 (usually a bundle sheath extension and  
281 mesophyll structured into spongy and palisade mesophyll layers) and seven to Design 3 (palisade  
282 and spongy mesophyll cells are indistinct). Note that while Zwieniecki et al. (2007) classified  
283 adult *E. globulus* leaves as Design 3, we have classified the juvenile *E. globulus* as Design 2 due  
284 to the presence of bundle sheath extension cells and a mesophyll structured into spongy and  
285 palisade layers. Based on the hydraulic designs, we predicted a whole leaf Péclet effect would be  
286 detected in Design 2 leaves only, with Design 1 and 3 leaves displaying no significant positive  
287 relationship between  $E$  and  $\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ .

288 The relationships between transpiration rate ( $E$ ) and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  in bulk leaf water (i.e. mid vein and  
289 lamina tissue combined) are shown for 18 species in Fig. 1. For these measurements the whole  
290 leaf, or a section of the lamina that remained intact (i.e. the major vein was not removed) was  
291 used, revealing that all 18 have a relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  that is consistent with their

292 assigned Design (Fig. 1). The species *Acer x freemanii*, *E. camaldulensis*, *E. globulus*, *E.*  
293 *grandis*, *E. polybractea*, *G. hirsutum* and *V. vinifera* showed a significant positive relationship  
294 between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  ( $p < 0.05$ ; Fig. 1E to 1L). The remaining species showed either no  
295 significant correlation between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  ( $p > 0.05$ ; Fig. 1; *E. parramattensis*, *E. amplifolia*,  
296 *E. occidentalis*, *E. stellulata*, *G. biloba*, *G. max*, *H. annuus*, *T. aestivum*, and ambient light and  
297 CO<sub>2</sub> grown *V. faba*), or in the case of *V. faba*, *C. arietinum* and *E. botryoides* a significantly  
298 negative relationship between  $E$  and  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$ . *P. vulgaris*, while being assigned to Design 2,  
299 was marginally non-significant ( $p = 0.06$ ; Fig. 1K).

300 Different growth and measurement conditions, and techniques for analysing leaf water isotope  
301 composition, were included in the study. For *V. faba*, differences in growth conditions were  
302 compared (Supplementary Fig. S1), in *H. annuus* the necessity to reach isotopic steady state was  
303 assessed (Fig. 1R), and three species (*H. annuus*, *E. parramattensis* and *E. grandis*) were used to  
304 assess the effects of measurement irradiance on the relationship between  $E$  and  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$  (Figure  
305 2). For *V. faba*, no significant differences were found between genotypes, so all genotypes were  
306 pooled for subsequent analysis. A significant positive relationship was found for leaves of plants  
307 grown in low light, ambient CO<sub>2</sub> conditions ( $p = 0.004$ ; Supp. Fig. 1D), while a negative  
308 relationship was found for leaves grown at low light and high CO<sub>2</sub> conditions ( $p < 0.0001$ ; Supp.  
309 Fig. 1B) and no significant relationship was found for leaves grown at high light and either high  
310 or ambient CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Supp. Fig. 1A and C). For *H. annuus*, samples taken at isotopic  
311 steady state had higher  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$  values than those for which steady state was not achieved, but  
312 in both situations there were non-significant relationships between transpiration rate and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ .  
313 As shown in Fig. 2, there were no significant differences in the relationship between  $E$  and  $1-$   
314  $\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for low ( $200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and high ( $1200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) irradiance measurements for any

315 of the three species assessed. We conclude that data presented in Fig. 1 do not include artefacts  
316 due to changes in irradiance. A significant positive relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  was  
317 observed for *H. annuus* when measurements were made at 200 and 1200 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> irradiance  
318 (Fig. 2A), which differs from the non-significant relationships between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for this  
319 species in Fig. 1R. However, it should be noted that the relationship in Fig 2A is strongly driven  
320 by a single point at low  $E$ .

321 The appropriateness of using a Péclet model or two-pool model for estimating leaf water isotopic  
322 enrichment was assessed. For direct comparison, the species average  $L$  (for the Péclet model) and  
323  $\phi$  (for the two-pool model) were applied to all replicates for each species and then the predicted  
324 leaf water enrichment was tested for deviation from a 1:1 relationship with the measured bulk  
325 leaf water values. A non-significant  $p$ -value indicated that the regression slope and intercept  
326 were similar to a regression assuming the model gave exact predictions of measured bulk leaf  
327 water. Species that were categorised as either Design 1 or Design 3 were generally better  
328 modelled using a two-pool model and those in Design 2 were generally better modelled using the  
329 Péclet effect model (Supp. Table 2). For *E. amplifolia*, *E. botryoides*, *G. hirsutum*, *G. max*, *C.*  
330 *arientinum* and *V. faba* (except ambient CO<sub>2</sub> and low irradiance) neither model proved able to  
331 predict bulk leaf water particularly well (Supp. Table 2).

332 Eight species, including *C. sasanqua* and *W. nobilis*, were also measured and the major vein and  
333 lamina sampled and analysed separately for stable isotope composition. A composite value for  
334 the whole leaf was estimated by combining water contents and isotope compositions. Fig. 3  
335 shows the relationships between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , with the species separated into hydraulic design  
336 (again determined based on anatomy). There was a significant positive relationship between  $E$   
337 and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for *C. sasanqua* lamina ( $p = 0.02$ ;  $R^2 = 0.49$ ) primary vein ( $p = 0.0003$ ,  $R^2 = 0.82$ )



338 and the composite estimate ( $p = 0.003$ ,  $R^2 = 0.69$ ; Fig. 2A). However, half of the *C. sasanqua*  
339 lamina samples had negative values of  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  (i.e.  $\Delta^{18}O_L > \Delta^{18}O_e$ ), despite these measurements  
340 being made at isotopic steady state (or very close to). The results for *W. nobilis* were similar: the  
341 lamina, vein and composite  $f$  were all significantly correlated with  $E$  ( $p = 0.02$ ,  $R^2 = 0.35$ ;  $p <$   
342  $0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.75$  and  $p < 0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.68$  respectively) despite more than half of the lamina  $1-$   
343  $\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  being negative (Fig. 3B). For *Acer x freemanii* and the *Eucalyptus* species, as many as half  
344 of the lamina samples had a negative value of  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ . *E. occidentalis* and *E. polybractea*  
345 showed no significant relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , calculated either from lamina,  
346 primary vein or the composite of both ( $p > 0.05$ ; Fig. 3G and F). There was a significant  
347 correlation between  $E$  and primary vein  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for *E. stellulata* ( $p = 0.0002$ ;  $R^2 = 0.66$ ; Fig. 3H)  
348 but not with  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  calculated from the lamina or composite of both. Both *E. camaldulensis* and  
349 *E. grandis* showed significant correlations between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  calculated from all three  
350 measurements (primary vein, lamina and composite,  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 2D and E). For *Acer x*  
351 *freemanii*, only  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  calculated from the primary vein measurements showed a significant  
352 relationship with  $E$  ( $p < 0.0001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.71$ ; Fig. 3C).

353

## 354 **DISCUSSION**

355

356 *Is the Craig-Gordon model sufficient to predict leaf water enrichment?*

357 The motivation for development of both the two-pool and Péclet models of leaf water enrichment  
358 were observations that the Craig-Gordon model over-estimated enrichment at isotopic steady  
359 state. Early studies revealing a positive relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , either directly

360 (Flanagan et al. 1994), or indirectly (Barbour et al. 2000; Barbour et al. 2004), have used this as  
361 evidence for the relevance of using the Péclet model to predict whole leaf enrichment. However,  
362 more a recent study with *G. hirsutum* (Song et al. 2015) found a slightly positive but non-  
363 significant relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , suggesting that the two-pool model may be more  
364 appropriate. The core test of the relevance of either the two-pool or the Péclet model for leaf  
365 water is that bulk leaf water is less enriched than that predicted by the Craig-Gordon model when  
366 the leaf is at isotopic steady state. Among the species studied here, we found that no more than a  
367 third of the values of  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  were negative in 19 of the 21 species.  $\Delta_L$  was always less than  $\Delta_{es}$   
368 in *G. biloba*, *T. aestivum*, *E. globulus*, *E. parramettensis*, *G. hirsutum*, *P. vulgaris*, *V. vinifera*, *G.*  
369 *max* and *H. annuus*, suggesting that the Craig-Gordon alone model is insufficient for predicting  
370  $\Delta_L$ . Measurements of lamina isotope composition in *C. sasanqua* and *W. nobilis* indicate that  $\Delta_L$   
371  $> \Delta_e$  in more than half the samples for these two species, but there were significant positive  
372 relationships between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for the mid-veins, lamina tissue and the calculated  
373 composite bulk leaf water. Both these species were classified as Design 1 and both have very  
374 low transpiration rates ( $< 1.5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ), and so may not have been at isotopic steady state  
375 despite remaining in the leaf chamber for up to 7 hours. For these species, and potentially other  
376 species with low rates of  $E$ , a more complicated non-steady state expression may be required for  
377 both the two-pool and the Péclet model; a model that includes pools of hydraulically  
378 disconnected water with very low turnover times. The models tested here are the simplest  
379 versions, more complicated versions of the Péclet model being found in Gan et al. (2003), Ogée  
380 et al. (2007) and Cuntz et al. (2007).

381 We also observed negative relationships between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for *C. arietinum*, *E. botryoides*  
382 and *V. faba* (for plants grown and measured at high  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations and both high and low

383 light levels). We currently lack an explanation for these unexpected observations, but clearly the  
384 Péclet effect is not relevant for these species and growth conditions. The two-pool model also  
385 needs to be modified to account for negative relationships; a higher value of  $\phi$  when transpiration  
386 rates are low.

387 We conclude that the Craig-Gordon model is insufficient to explain observed variation in  $\Delta_L$ , and  
388 that either the two-pool model (for leaf hydraulic designs 1 and 3) or the Péclet effect model (for  
389 hydraulic design 2) are required to predict  $\Delta_L$ . Figure 4 shows that the Craig-Gordon model  
390 over-estimates  $\Delta_L$  by 4.8‰ on average, and by as much as 12.5‰. In contrast, using an  
391 appropriate, hydraulically-informed, model results in an average difference between measured  
392 and modelled values of just 0.01‰.

393

#### 394 *Considering hydraulic design and leaf water isotopes*

395 Using rehydration kinetic measurements, Zwieniecki et al. (2007) proposed three hydraulic  
396 designs for leaves with differing pathways for water movement and levels of mesophyll water  
397 connectedness. These hydraulic designs imply differences in the proportion of the transpiration  
398 stream moving within the apoplastic and symplastic pathways. We have previously suggested  
399 that the relative importance of apoplastic and symplastic pathways is relevant to leaf water  
400 isotopes (Barbour and Farquhar 2003). Apoplastic water movement is assumed to be dominated  
401 by bulk flow (Strugger 1943) and as the Péclet effect describes the ratio of advection to  
402 convection in mass flow, it is likely that apoplastic pathways will allow isotopic gradients to  
403 form. In contrast, symplastic water transport through plasmodesmata and transcellular transport  
404 across cellular membranes may not allow isotopic gradients to form. This is because aquaporins

405 and the pores of plasmodesmata are thought to be too small to support bulk flow (Schaffner  
406 1998; Fricke 2000). The pore of an aquaporin is thought to be only large enough for a single  
407 water molecule to move through (Schaffner 1998), and it is unlikely that isotopic gradients could  
408 be formed for molecules moving in single file. If a high proportion of the transpiration stream  
409 moves from the xylem to the sites of evaporation through aquaporins, isotopic gradients may not  
410 form in the cytoplasm or, as we suggested, may be poorly described by Péclet effect theory.  
411 However, if any water molecules move counter to the net flow, isotopic gradients may form  
412 (Barbour and Farquhar 2003). Additionally, it is unclear what role, if any, the vacuole may have  
413 in the development of isotopic heterogeneity. As the vacuole can contain a large proportion of  
414 cellular water, how this pool of water is involved in the transpiration stream may have a  
415 significant effect on isotopic composition at the whole leaf level.

416 Relating pathways of water transport to water isotopes, we suggest that liquid water transport in  
417 the apoplast would allow the development of Péclet-type gradients in enrichment if the ratio  
418 between water velocity times characteristic length and  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  diffusivity in water were of the  
419 appropriate order of magnitude (see Eqn 13). We assume that water transport through  
420 aquaporins would not allow isotopic gradients to form across membranes (Barbour and Farquhar  
421 2003) and that transport in the vapour phase will not allow a gradient in enrichment to develop in  
422 the liquid phase. Therefore, the ability to detect a Péclet effect at the whole leaf level will  
423 depend on the contribution of apoplastic and symplastic pathways to water movement.

424 For a given transpiration rate, the velocity at which water moves through specific pathways  
425 within leaves is related to differences in hydraulic resistance and the cross sectional area  
426 perpendicular to direction of flow (Barbour and Farquhar 2003). The Péclet effect is determined  
427 by  $\phi$ , the product of the velocity of water movement ( $v$ ,  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and the distance from the

428 evaporation sites ( $l$ ,  $m$ ) in ratio to the diffusivity of  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  in water ( $D$ ,  $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ , variable with  
429 temperature) (Barbour and Farquhar 2003):

$$430 \quad \phi = \frac{vl}{D} \quad . \quad (13)$$

431 A significant Péclet effect occurs when there is a high velocity, a long diffusional distance or a  
432 combination of both. Presence of a Péclet effect implies a low resistance pathway from veins to  
433 evaporation sites that has a small cross-sectional area perpendicular to the direction of flow.  
434 These characteristics are consistent with water transport in the apoplast (Rockwell, Holbrook and  
435 Stroock, 2014; Buckley 2015). On the contrary, low velocity would suggest a high resistance  
436 and/or a large cross sectional area perpendicular to the direction of flow, and in these instances  
437 isotopic gradients may not form (i.e. no Péclet effect).

438 The detection of a whole leaf Péclet effect is likely to be related to how variation in mesophyll  
439 hydraulic resistance and cross sectional area of liquid transport pathways affect the velocity of  
440 water movement, and to some extent, how the distance to the evaporation sites varies with leaf  
441 anatomy. Stomatal density and the ratio of densities on abaxial and adaxial leaf surfaces is likely  
442 to influence this distance and may be relevant for the development of Péclet gradients within  
443 leaves. We note that Larcher et al. (2014) observed a positive relationship between stomatal  
444 density and  $\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , but point out that this study assumed that a Péclet effect was present in all  
445 genotypes and species which we have shown here may not be the case.

446 In Design 2 leaves, water primarily moves from the xylem to the epidermis through bundle  
447 sheath extensions then along the epidermal cells towards the nearest stoma because there is a  
448 high degree of hydraulic resistance between the xylem and the mesophyll. In this situation,  
449 liquid water transport through the lamina is likely dominated by apoplastic flow (e.g. Rockwell,

450 Holbrook and Stroock 2014; Buckley 2015) with associated isotope gradients. A possible  
451 explanation for the high mesophyll resistance in Design 2 leaves is a low expression of  
452 aquaporins in the plasma membranes of mesophyll cells. These features combine to produce high  
453 velocity for liquid transport within the low resistance and small area pathways in the apoplast of  
454 the xylem, bundle sheath extension and epidermal cells. Gradients in enrichment are likely  
455 within the apoplast of bundle sheath extension and epidermal cells in Design 2 leaves. These  
456 gradients could then propagate from the bundle sheath extension cells through the adjacent  
457 mesophyll cells via establishment of local isotopic equilibria. Note that this local equilibrium  
458 does not rely on isotope gradients forming through membranes and their associated aquaporins.  
459 Rather, over time water in the hydraulically-disconnected mesophyll cells would exchange and  
460 isotopically equilibrate with water in the adjacent bundle sheath extension and epidermal cells.

461 By comparison, species with leaves fitting in Design 3 classification presumably have high  
462 expression of aquaporins, allowing water to rapidly traverse the mesophyll, while also being  
463 transported through the bundle sheath extensions around the xylem. In these leaves, the high  
464 expression of aquaporins may preclude the development of gradients in enrichment between the  
465 sites of evaporation and the veins, so water in the mesophyll will have an isotopic composition  
466 similar to the evaporative sites within the leaf and hence no Péclet effect. In leaves with limited  
467 hydraulic connections between the veins and either the epidermis or the mesophyll (Design 1),  
468 the low velocity water transport through high resistance pathways would also preclude formation  
469 of isotope gradients within the mesophyll.

470

471

472 *Can hydraulic design explain differences between leaves in the relevance of the Péclet effect?*

473 Combining the use of variation in  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  with leaf hydraulics to understand water movement  
474 through leaves seems obvious and yet these two techniques are rarely measured simultaneously  
475 (but see Kahmen et al. 2009; Ferrio et al. 2012; Loucos et al. 2015). Here we show a novel link  
476 between leaf hydraulic designs constrained by different leaf anatomy (Zwieniecki et al. 2007)  
477 and the patterns of isotopic enrichment at the whole leaf level, suggesting that we are closer to  
478 reconciling the contrasting results across the literature. For instance, by identifying that only  
479 species Design 2 leaf anatomy will have a clear Péclet effect at the whole leaf level we offer an  
480 explanation for why some species have exhibited Péclet effects and others not.

481 Focusing on Design 2 leaves, the anatomical features of these species may allow the formation of  
482 a Péclet effect in the bundle sheath extensions and apoplastic pathway. As shown in Fig. 1,  
483 species placed into Design 2 were found to have a significant relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$   
484 (except *P. vulgaris* which was marginally non-significant Fig. 1K, and *E. polybractea* when  
485 main veins and lamina tissue were sampled separately Fig. 3F). In support of these results, our  
486 analysis of the best fit model for the data of each species reveal that the Péclet model is a better  
487 fit for species with Design 2 leaves than the two-pool (Supp. Table 2). This contrasts to data for  
488 leaves from Design 1 or Design 3, in which generally the two-pool model provided equal or  
489 better fit than the Péclet effect (Supp. Table 2). Indeed our isotope results show that Design 1  
490 and 3 leaves, in which a Péclet effect is not expected to form across the whole leaf, have no  
491 relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  (Fig. 1).

492 The lack of a Péclet effect at the whole leaf level does not necessarily exclude a localised Péclet  
493 effect occurring in the veins and associated tissue, as suggested by the significant positive

494 relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  for primary vein samples of *G. hirsutum* (Holloway-Phillips  
495 et al. 2016). The results presented here support the notion that the positive relationship between  
496  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  occurs strongly in the primary veins (6 of 8 species in Fig. 3,  $p < 0.05$ ) and is  
497 therefore likely to occur in lower order veins. However, even when there was a significant  
498 relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  in leaf sections containing a primary vein, this was not  
499 enough to drive a significant positive relationship between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  in the composite leaf  
500 estimate (e.g. *Acer* and *E. polybractea*). For the *Eucalyptus* species where there was a significant  
501 leaf composite  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  relationship, there was also a significant relationship between  $E$   
502 and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$  in the lamina (which contained minor veins; Fig. 3). Design 1 leaves are expected to  
503 have low velocity of liquid transport due to either low transpiration rates (e.g. gymnosperm  
504 species and *C. sasanqua*) or an absence of low resistance pathways (i.e. no bundle sheath  
505 extensions) meaning that water transport from the veins to the stomata likely occurs through the  
506 entire mesophyll with large associated cross sectional area. In both cases, we suggest this will  
507 result in no detectable whole leaf Péclet effect. For Design 3 leaves, water movement through the  
508 well-connected mesophyll will greatly increase the cross-sectional area for flow, resulting in a  
509 slower velocity across the whole leaf and, combined with a dominance of aquaporin transport  
510 that doesn't allow gradients to develop, no Péclet effect is detectable at the whole leaf level.  
511 Combining hydraulic design and isotope theory, our results suggest that the main pathway in  
512 which a Péclet effect may form is located in the apoplastic pathways, including through the  
513 bundle sheath extensions. However, we stress that the link between isotopic patterns and leaf  
514 hydraulics has yet to be tested in a wide range of environmental conditions and we have relied on  
515 leaf anatomy to assess hydraulic design. A more rigorous test of the relationship would include  
516 measurements of leaf rehydration kinetics to determine hydraulic design. Finally, stomatal



517 density (Larcher et al. 2014) and the presence of stomata on both leaf surfaces could influence  
518 the strength of the observed Péclet effect for Design 2 leaves; this would be an interesting area  
519 for future studies.

520

## 521 *Conclusions*

522 The most appropriate model for predicting whole leaf lamina isotopic enrichment has remained  
523 elusive. Evidence in support of the two most commonly used models, the Péclet model and the  
524 two-pool model, has been found in the literature but until now there has been no way to  
525 determine when a particular model is suitable. We demonstrate that the Péclet effect is relevant  
526 at the whole leaf level for less than 50% of sampled species. We relate these findings to the leaf  
527 hydraulic designs proposed by Zwieniecki et al. (2007), in which only species from Design 2  
528 exhibit a detectable Péclet effect at the whole leaf level. It was generally found that for species  
529 with no correlation between  $E$  and  $1-\Delta_L/\Delta_e$ , the two-pool model was equal to or better than the  
530 simplest version of the Péclet model at predicting bulk leaf water enrichment.

531

532 **Conflict of interest statement:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

533

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711

712 **Table 1.** List of species divided into the three hydraulic designs based on citations providing anatomical cross sections. The presence  
713 (Y) or absence (N) of bundle sheath extension cells (BSE) is indicated in the labelled column. Similarly, the presence (Y) or absence  
714 (N) of a significant relationship between transpiration rate and the fractional difference between the Craig-Gordon estimate for  
715 evaporative enrichment and the measured bulk leaf water isotopic enrichment is indicated in the column “Péclet”. Anatomical  
716 notation: MR = multi-veined reticulate, MP = multi-veined paralleled, SV = single veined, P = palisade cells, S = spongy cells, Indist.  
717 = indistinguishable, unstructured = no obvious mesophyll structure. For *C. sasanqua* and *W. nobilis*, more than two thirds of  $1 - \Delta_L/\Delta_e$   
718 were negative, thus the whole leaf Péclet effect theory used in this study is not applicable (marked N\*).

Species	Vein structure	BSE	Mesophyll	Citation	Design	Péclet	Citation
<i>C. sasanqua</i>	MR	N	P+S	John et al. 2013	1	N*	Current study
<i>G. biloba</i>	MP	Y	unstructured	Zwieniecki et al. 2007	1	N	Current study
<i>T. aestivum</i>	MP	N	Indist. P+S	Jahan 2016	1	N	Current study
<i>V. faba</i>	MR	N	P+S	Current study	1	N, except low light and ambient CO <sub>2</sub> grown leaves	Current study
<i>C. arietinum</i>	MR	N	Indist. P+S	Current study	1	N	Current study
<i>W. nobilis</i>		N	P+S	Burrows and Bullock 1999	1	N*	Current study
6 conifer species		N	unstructured	Roden et al. 2015	1	N	Roden et al. 2015
<i>P. radiata</i>	SV	N	unstructured	Roden et al. 2009	1	N	Song et al. 2013
<i>P. rigida</i>	SV	N	unstructured	Bostrack and Sparrow 1969	1	N	Song et al. 2013
<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Current study	2	Y	Current study
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	MR	?	P+S	Sefton et al. 2002	2	Y	Current study
<i>E. globulus</i>	MR	Y	P+S	James et al. 1999	2	Y	Current study

<i>E. grandis</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Sefton et al. 2002; Santos et al. 2008	2	Y	Current study
<i>E. polybractea</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Current study	2	Y	Current study
<i>G. hirsutum</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Current study	2	Y	Current study
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Morison et al. 2007, Current study	2	Y/N	Current study
<b><i>V. vinifera</i> cv. Sultana M12</b>	MR	Y	P+S	Current study	2	Y	Current study
<i>A. rubrum</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Zwieniecki et al. 2007	2	N	Song et al 2013
<i>F. sylvatica</i>		Y	P+S	Van Wittenberghe et al. 2012	2	Y	Ferrio et al. 2009
<i>V. vinifera</i> cv. Grenache	MR	?	P+S	Tomás et al. 2014	2	Y	Ferrio et al. 2012
<i>E. amplifolia</i>	MR	Y	P only	Current study	3	N	Current study
<i>E. botryoides</i>	MR	Y	P, S?	Current study	3	N	Current study
<i>E. occidentalis</i>	MR	?	P+S	Sefton et al. 2002	3	N	Current study
<i>E. stellulata</i>	MR	N	Indist. P+S	Current study	3	N	Current study
<i>E. parramattensis</i>	MR	Y	Indist. P+S	Current study	3	N	Current study
<i>G. max</i>	MR	Y	Indist. P+S	Pérez Chaca et al. 2014;, Junior et al. 2009	3	N	Current study
<i>H. annuus</i>	MR	Y	P+S	Current study	3	N	Current study

720 **Figure Captions**

721 **Figure 1.** The relationship between transpiration rate and the fractional difference between the  
722 Craig-Gordon estimate ( $\Delta_e$ ) and measured leaf water stable oxygen isotope composition ( $\Delta_L$ ) for  
723 the lamina and whole leaf samples of 18 species. The species are separated into the three  
724 hydraulic designs as designated in Table 1. Additionally, in panel R datasets collected in isotopic  
725 steady state and non-steady state are shown.

726 **Figure 2.** The relationships between transpiration rate and the fractional difference between the  
727 Craig-Gordon estimate ( $\Delta_e$ ) and measured leaf water stable oxygen isotope composition ( $\Delta_L$ ) for  
728 leaves of three species exposed to high ( $1200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ; circles) and low ( $200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ;  
729 squares) irradiance during gas exchange and transpiration isoflux measurements.

730 **Figure 3.** The relationship between transpiration rate and the fractional difference between the  
731 Craig-Gordon estimate ( $\Delta_e$ ) and measured leaf water stable oxygen isotope composition ( $\Delta_L$ ) for  
732 the major vein, lamina and composite samples of 8 selected species. The 8 species are separated  
733 into the three hydraulic designs as designated in Table 1. Note that the x-axis scale differs  
734 between panels A and B, and panels C to H.

735 **Figure 4.** The relationships between measured and modelled leaf water  $^{18}\text{O}$  enrichment for  
736 leaves of three hydraulic designs, using the Craig-Gordon model (A) and hydraulically-informed  
737 models (B). In (B), hydraulic designs 1 and 3 use the two-pool model (Eqn 7, with an average  
738 value of  $\phi$  for each species), and hydraulic design 2 leaves use the Péclet model (Eqn 12, with an  
739 average value of  $L$  for each species).

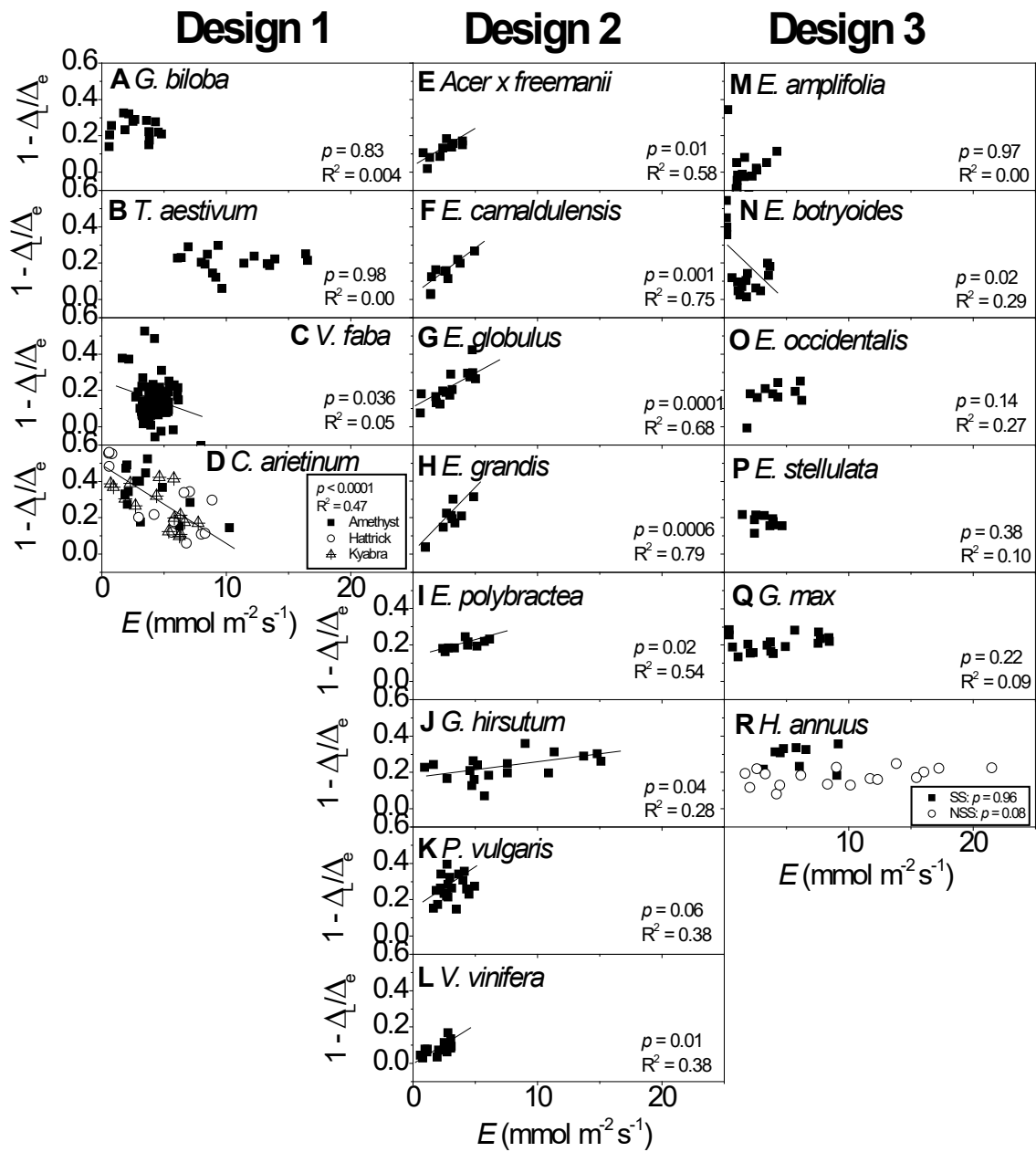


Figure 1.

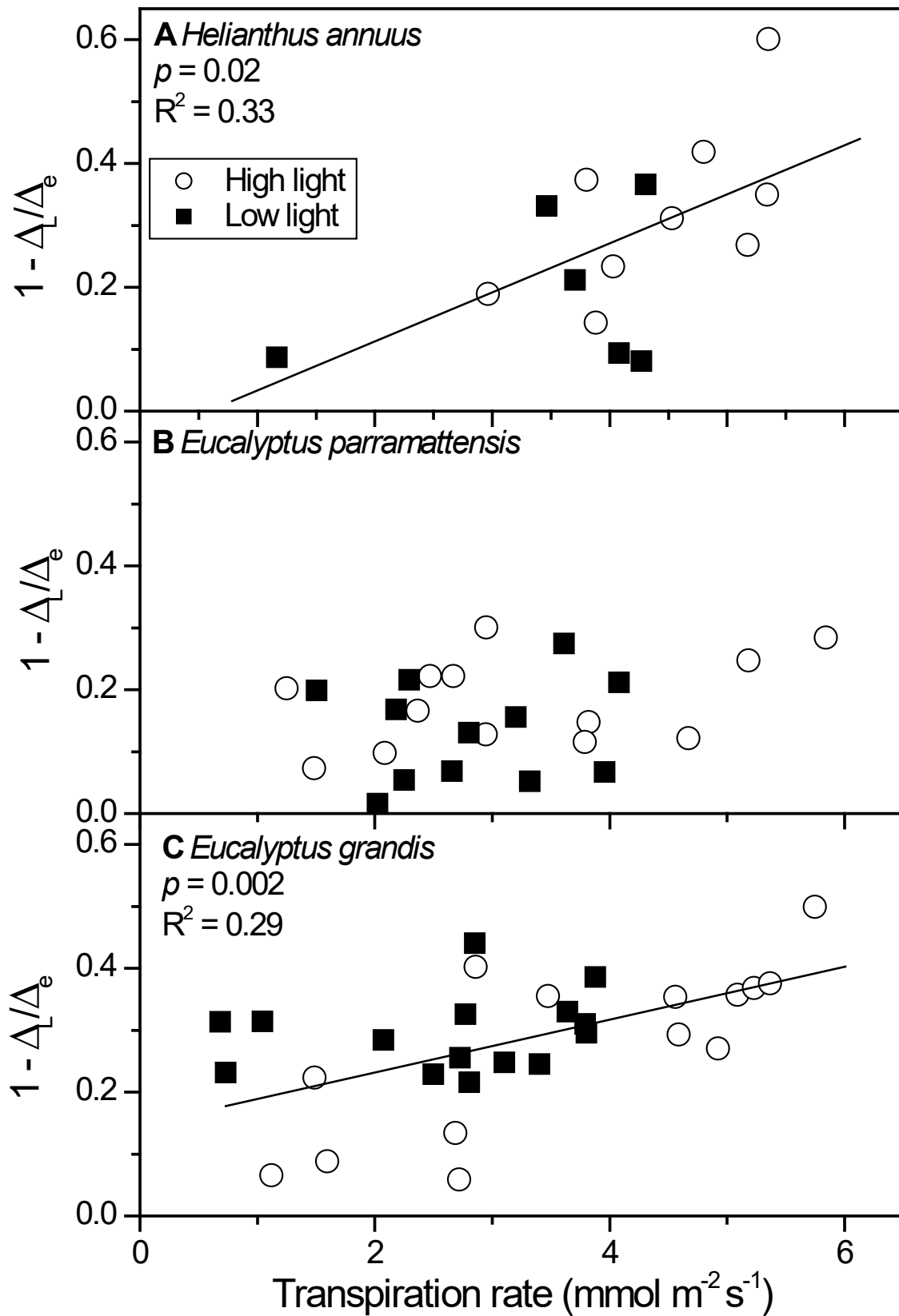


Figure 2.

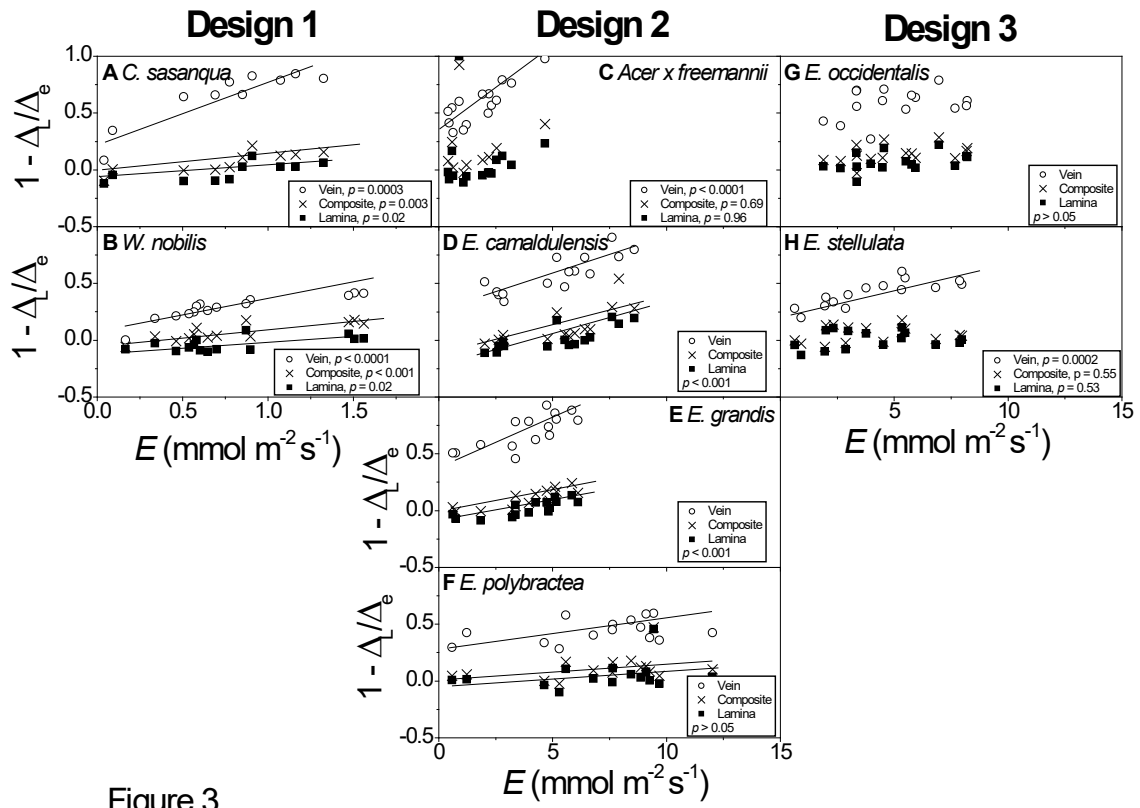


Figure 3.



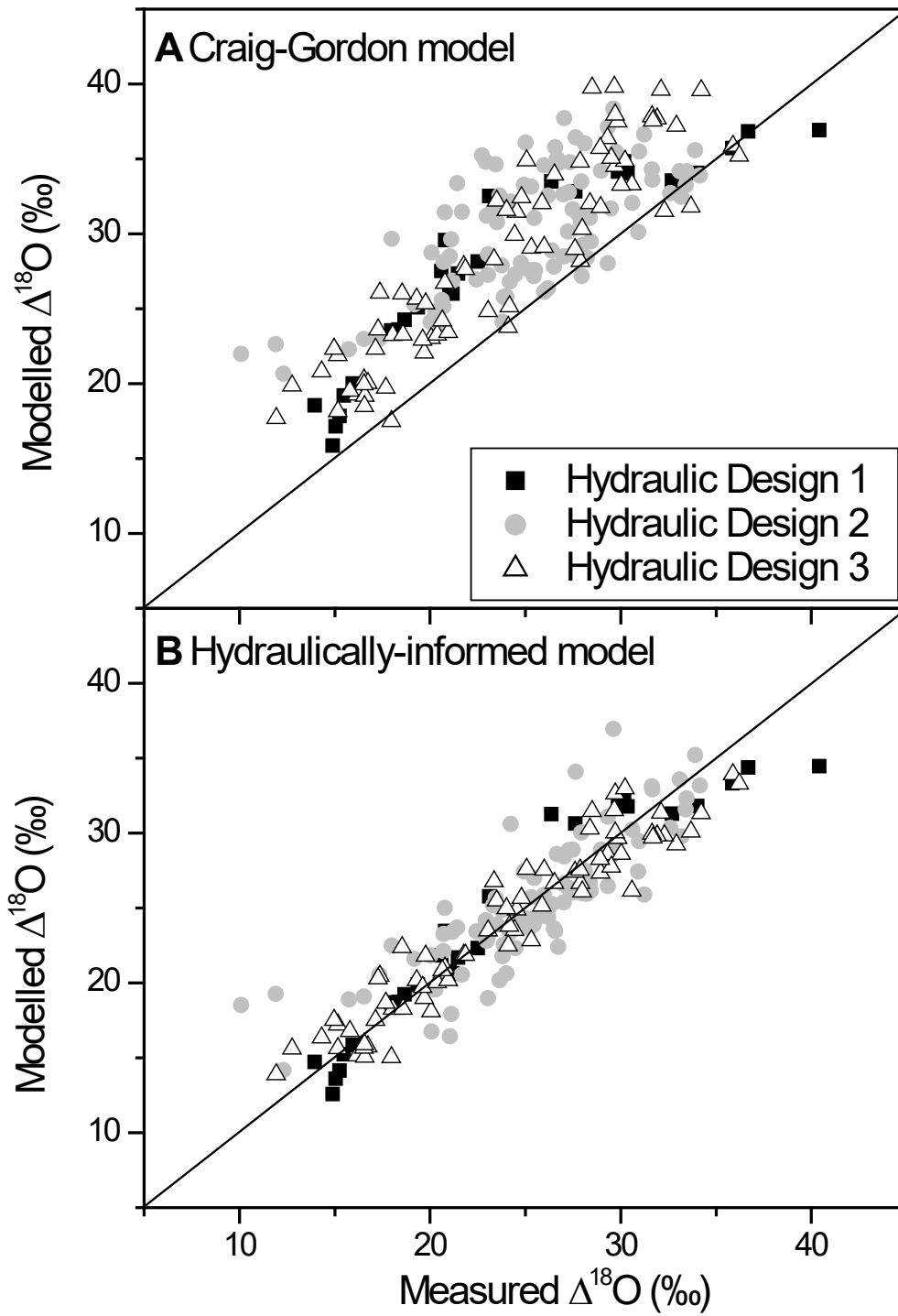


Figure 4